

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference IGT1P205.WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION	
	See item 4 below	
International application No. PCT/US2005/000813	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 11 January 2005 (11.01.2005)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 29 January 2004 (29.01.2004)
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237		
Applicant IGT		

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a). 2. This REPORT consists of a total of 8 sheets, including this cover sheet. <p style="margin-top: 10px;">In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.</p>																
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. This report contains indications relating to the following items: <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </td> <td style="width: 85%; text-align: left; padding: 5px;"> Box No. I Basis of the report </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> <td style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;"> Box No. II Priority </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> <td style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;"> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> <td style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;"> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </td> <td style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;"> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> <td style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;"> Box No. VI Certain documents cited </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> <td style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;"> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> <td style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;"> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application </td> </tr> </table> 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I Basis of the report															
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II Priority															
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability															
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention															
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement															
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI Certain documents cited															
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application															
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application															
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2). 																

<p>The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland</p> <p>Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70</p>	<p>Date of issuance of this report 31 July 2006 (31.07.2006)</p> <p>Authorized officer Athina Nickitas-Etienne e-mail: pt04@wipo.int</p>
--	--

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

REC'D 19 MAY 2005

PCT
WIPO

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/US2005/000813

International filing date (day/month/year)
11.01.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
29.01.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
G07F17/32

Applicant
IGT

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas
Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl
Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016

Authorized Officer

Bohn, P

Telephone No. +31 70 340-3962



WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/US2005/000813

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - a sequence listing
 - table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - in written format
 - in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - contained in the international application as filed.
 - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2005/000813

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	3-5, 11-12, 14-16, 27-30, 35-36
	No: Claims	1-2, 6-10, 13, 17-26, 31-34, 37-38
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-38
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-38
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1 Reference is made to the following document:

- D1: US 2002/142846 A1 (PAULSEN CRAIG A) 3 October 2002 (2002-10-03)
- D2: US 2003/054868 A1 (PAULSEN CRAIG A ET AL) 20 March 2003 (2003-03-20)
- D3: US 2003/232640 A1 (WALKER JAY S ET AL) 18 December 2003 (2003-12-18)
- D4: US 2003/148812 A1 (PAULSEN CRAIG A ET AL) 7 August 2003 (2003-08-07)

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D1 discloses a gaming system comprising a network server (p.2 § 15) comprising a gaming server controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to said processor and a gaming apparatus (p.2 § 11) comprising a controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to said processor.

The gaming apparatus comprises a display unit and a value input device (p.1 § 3). The gaming apparatus is programmed to cause the display unit to generate a game display (p.2 § 11).

The gaming apparatus controller is programmed to determine a value pay-out associated with an outcome of a game (p.2 § 4).

The gaming apparatus comprises an identification device (p.8 § 67). A player is identified with the identification device of the gaming apparatus.

The identified player can input preferences in the gaming apparatus (p.2 § 11), including preferred games and preferred game characteristics.

The preferences are stored in the memory of the network server (p.2 § 15).

When the player identifies himself again on a gaming apparatus, the gaming apparatus controller requests the identified player's preferences from the network server (p.2 §

11).

The network server controller selects the identified player's preferences (p.2 § 15), including the preferred games.

The network server selects therefore a game from a plurality of games based upon said first player preferences.

The identified player's preferences are transferred to the gaming apparatus (p.2 § 15, p.8 § 70).

The gaming apparatus controller reconfigures the stored programs of the gaming apparatus based upon said preferences automatically or after a dialogue with the player: display output related to the preferences / input from the player (p.8 § 71) .

As a consequence, the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new.

3 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 9

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new (Article 33(2) PCT).

Document D1 discloses a gaming apparatus comprising:
a display unit and a value input device (p.1 § 3);
a controller operatively coupled to said display unit and said value input device, said controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to said processor (p.2 § 11),
said controller being programmed to receive preference data relating to preferences of a first player, including preferred games (p.2 § 18),
the controller is programmed to provide a game selection with said preferred games (p.2 § 18, p.8 § 71),
the controller is therefore programmed to select a game from a plurality of available games based upon the player's preferences,
said controller being programmed to cause said display unit to generate a game selection display relating to said game selection (p.8 § 71),
said controller being programmed to cause said display unit to generate a game display relating to one of the following games: a game from said preferred games, poker, blackjack, slots, keno (p.2 § 13),
said controller being programmed to determine a value pay-out associated with an

outcome of said game (p.2 § 4).

As a consequence, the subject-matter of claim 9 is not new.

4 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 22

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

The subject-matter of claim 22 differs from the subject-matter of claim 9 in that the player preferences are game characteristics instead of games.

Document D1 discloses also game characteristics as player preferences (p.2 § 11).

As a consequence, the subject-matter of claim 22 is not new.

5 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 33

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D1 discloses a gaming method, comprising:
receiving identification data relating to the identity of a first player (p.8 § 67),
receiving player profile data relating to a player profile associated with said player identity, said player profile comprising preference data relating to preferences of said first player (p.2 § 18, p.8 § 68);
selecting a game from a plurality of available games based upon said first player preferences to provide a game selection (p.2 § 18, p.8 § 71);
causing a game selection display relating to said game selection comprising said selected game to be generated (p.8 § 71);
causing a game display of one of the following games to be generated:
a game from said game selection, poker, blackjack, slots, keno (p.2 § 13);
and
determining a value pay-out associated with an outcome of said game represented by said video image (p.2 § 4).

As a consequence, the subject-matter of claim 33 is not new.

6 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2, 6-8, 10, 13, 17-21, 23-26, 31-32, 34, 37-38

The additional subject-matter of claims 2, 6-8, 10, 13, 17-21, 23-26, 31-32, 34, 37-38 is disclosed in document D1 (p.2 § 11,13,15; p.8 § 67,71; fig.2).

As a consequence, the subject-matter of these claims is not new (Article 33(2) PCT).

7 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 3-5, 14-16, 27-30, 35-36

The additional subject-matter of claims 3-5, 14-16, 27-30, 35-36 refers to the implementation of rules for selecting a game.

Such rules constitute a choice of non-technical character.

They do not contribute to the solution of a technical problem and do not have an effect beyond the control of the I/O devices normally carried out by such programs.

The implementation of these rules is obvious for the person skilled in the art.

As a consequence, the subject-matter of claims 3-5, 14-16, 27-30, 35-36 does not involve an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

8 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 11-12

The additional subject-matter of claims 11-12 refers to implementation details. These claims do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).